(c) whether the present unplanned growth of cities has posed several infrastructural problems; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Urban Academy will improve infrastructural facilites in various cities in a planned way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal is to set up an Academy for Urban Administrators and Technologists. The proposed academy, besides imparting training and skills to senior managerial and technical staff, would also conduct and coordinate research in respect of human settlement technology.

(b) For working out the details and modalities of setting up of the proposed academy, a Group has been appointed by the Ministry of Urban Development. The matter is also under discussion with the Planning Commission

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposed Academy for Urban Administrators and Technologists would be primarily a high level research and training centre. It would also study the problem of the cities and recommend remedial measures to improve the management and development of city projects.

Privatisation of Water Supply Services

3195. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether privatisation will be helpful in water supply services;

(b) if so, whether it will be possible with minimum cost to the consumer; and

(c) how does he propose to go about the selection process of private entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Privatisation of water supply can be helpful in improving services through better management, operation and maintenance, accountability, optimum use of available resources and mobilisation of additional finance. However, it is for the concerned State Government to decide on this matter.

(b) Tariff will have to be so structured to cover the cost of operation & maintenance, as will as to provide for new investment taking care at the same time that lifeline supply would be available at minimum cost to the consumer.

(c) Since this is a State subject, it is for the State Governments to decide on the selection process of private entrepreneurs.

Transport projects in various cities

3196. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has set up the Urban Mass Transit Corporation to carry out the feasibility studies for transport projects in various cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Corporation is expected to commence its work and which cities are likely to be covered initially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. The Urban Mass Transit Company Ltd. (UMTC) was set up in April, 1993, with the approval of Union Cabinet, to undertake the implementation of Hyderabad Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project on Build, Own, Operate & Transfer (BOOT) basis. However, in principle approval was also given by the Union Government for undertaking similar railway based system in other metropolitan cities on Built, Operate & Transfer (BOT) by the UMTC or similar companies in the joint sector with the approval of the concerned State Government. The feasibility study for LRT Hyderabad was got conducted by Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1989 through M/s RITES. No feasibility studies have been carried out by UMTC.

(b) In view of (a) above does not arise.

(c) As at present no sepecific schedule has been prepared by UMTC to commence its work for any tranport projects for any particular city in the country.

Development of Kanyakumari and Kashmir as International Tourist Centres

3197. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :